Abstract

The method is used to detect the beginning of combustion in an internal combustion engine (1) comprising several cylinders (2, 3, 4, 5) by means of a rotation speed signal determined for a shaft (6) of the internal combustion engine (1). A segment signal (SS), whose signal length corresponds to an integral full rotation of the shaft (6), is extracted from the rotation speed signal. A cylinder signal (ZS1, ZS2, ZS3, ZS4), which reproduces the operational state in a cylinder (2, 3, 4, 5), is generated from the segment signal (SS). The cylinder signal (ZS1, ZS2, ZS3, ZS4) is transformed into a cylinder frequency signal (FS 1, FS2, FS3, FS4) in an angle frequency range. Signal information indicating the beginning of combustion in the associated cylinder (2, 3, 4, 5) is extracted from the cylinder frequency signal (FS 1, FS2, FS3, FS4) at at least one predefined angle frequency.

- Fig. 1 -